

OREGON CROP WEATHER



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

USDA, NASS, Oregon Field Office

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Weather: Precipitation was reported for each weather station last week. Areas along the coast including Crescent City and Florence received the most rainfall, at 2.65 and 1.73 inches respectively, while several areas in the Willamette Valley received over an inch of rain. Those areas include Salem, Detroit Lake, and Eugene. High temperatures were mostly in the 50's and 60's. The highest temperature recorded last week was 66 degrees in Florence, Aurora, Portland, McMinnville, and Salem. Low temperatures ranged from 17 degrees in Rome to 40 degrees in Crescent City.

Field Crops: Cool, wet weather continued to delay fieldwork in many areas of the State. In western Oregon, crop development in many small grain and grass seed fields has been hindered by cool temperatures and excessive precipitation. Conditions were similar in much of central and eastern Oregon. Winter wheat and emerging spring wheat need some warmer weather to promote growth. As conditions allowed, producers were busy tilling, fertilizing, and preparing ground for the upcoming season.

Vegetables: Growers were spraying their fields in preparation of the vegetable season. Small acreage producers began vegetable starts to be transplanted later this spring. Jackson County reported early plantings of onions, peas, carrots, and other spring vegetables.

Fruits and Nuts: Cherries and plums began to bloom in the Willamette Valley amid cool, wet conditions. A recent hail storm in Yamhill County may cause spotty damage to cherries and plums that were in bloom. There were some reports of early peach losses to freezing conditions in February. Unsettled conditions prevailed in

Hood River County. Some fair weather allowed growers to apply delayed dormant sprays. Isolated hail storms caused some damage to more advanced blossom clusters. In the lower Hood River Valley, d'Anjou pears were at WSU stages 2 and 3; Red Delicious apples were at green tip (WSU stage 2); Bing cherries were at green tip (WSU stage 3); and Pinot Noir grapes were at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage. Wasco County orchardists were starting to apply their first fruit tree sprays of the season. Apricots and peaches were coming in bloom in southern Oregon, but more sun and warm days are needed for good pollination. Pears were also starting to show some bloom, but were also quite slow. New cherry acres were being planted in Sherman County. Grape pruning should be complete in Douglas County.

Nurseries and Greenhouses: Nurseries were in their busiest time of the year. Operations were finishing digging of bare root plants, digging and balling smaller plants and shrubs, and moving container plants. All nurseries were shipping plant material to east-coast markets. Greenhouses were very busy with flower and vegetable starts and shipping early-plant material to retail outlets.

Livestock, Range and Pasture: Pastures and range land needed warmer weather to take off in most areas of the State. Adequate moisture was available but the cool spring weather has slowed growth. The wet winter and spring should greatly help range grasses once warmer weather arrives. Late spring pasture growth, along with wet, muddy conditions, forced many producers to delay turning livestock out. This has resulted in some running very short on feed. Producers were busy with spring calving and lambing.

Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/02/06

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	0	3	54	43
Subsoil	0	8	59	33

Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/02/06

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	0	1	43	55	1
Range and pasture	1	21	24	47	7

Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/02/06

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	35	-	41	49
Barley emerged	13	-	29	19
Spring wheat planted	37	-	55	60
Spring wheat emerged	13	-	24	19
Days suitable for fieldwork	3.1	-	-	-

WESTERN OREGON

BENTON/LINN/LANE: Fertilizing grass seed fields has gotten off to a slow start due to the amount of water in the fields. Annual ryegrass ranges from good to very poor -- high ground that was sheeped looks good -- low ground, lots of flood out. Perennial ryegrass generally looks poor, extensive slug damage. Forage fescue looks good. Mouse infestations range from extensive on some high ground fields to very few on poorly drained soil (heavy winter rains helped). Major slug damage on a few annual fields especially volunteer fields.

COLUMBIA: Too wet, too cool. Crop conditions are suffering from excessive precipitation during the months of January and February. Low lying grass seed fields flooded, and has residual water standing on fields. Also, cold conditions experienced in January and February has affected grass seed fields. Pasture just waiting to take off. Field work behind. Potential increase in disease issues if weather pattern persists. Starting to see some winter injury in nursery crops from cold weather several months ago. Finishing up spring oat plantings.

COOS/CURRY: Cool and rainy all week, with a break only on Wednesday. Ground continues to be saturated to the point that pasture fertilization and other farming activities are being delayed. Pastures remain in mostly poor to fair condition; with many "sacrifice areas" becoming muddy and devoid of vegetation. Average air temperatures were slightly cooler during the week of March 26 through April 1. Precipitation decreased at Bandon but increased at Brookings-Harbor. Water year precipitation at Brookings-Harbor reached 93.48" and water year precipitation at Bandon reached 63.08". No cranberry frost events were recorded at Bandon during the week. Extreme maximum shielded Easter lily canopy temperature was 61.5 deg F, and the extreme minimum shielded Easter lily canopy temperature was 35.2 deg F.

DOUGLAS: Late frosts slowed spring growth with some blossom damage. Steady rain/showers kept fields too wet to work. Grape pruning should be finished. Hay prospects look good. Spring lambs and calves are almost all here.

JACKSON: Grain crops that have been planted looking mostly good but the continuous cold, wet weather is keeping growth down. Pasture and hay also not yet having much growth. Too cold and wet. Spring planting is also behind for the same reason. Apricots and peaches coming in bloom but they need more sun and some warm days for good pollination to get done. Some pears starting to show bloom but also quite slow. Some early planting of onions, peas, carrots and some other early spring vegetables. The soil conditions have been too wet and cold. Greenhouses very busy with flower and vegetable starts. Nurseries busy getting out bear root stock for planting. Most all livestock still getting supplemental feed. Pastures are quite slow getting good growth started. Lots of lambs and baby calves in the fields. Our wet weather should be a good help for range

grasses as soon as we get more sun. We have had lots of rain and snow in the high country this year. So far we are ahead of yearly norms. Irrigation season looks quite good at this time. Our spring has been off to a cool and wet start so now we could use some warm sunny days.

JOSEPHINE: Very soggy here with seasonal temperatures. Lots of snow in the hills and lots of rain in the valley. Pear flowering trees are in bloom. Livestock looks good. They are getting alternative feed in areas where ground is too wet to pasture. Seeing lots of fungal problems in those plants subject to it.

MARION: Soil temperatures improved enough this week to encourage growth. Some fields are being worked. Spring fertilizers are being applied to grass seed crops. Frequent rains hampering some field work.

WASHINGTON: Spot spraying in grass fields, fertilizing grass and winter wheat. No activity except plums and cherries blooming. Occasional peach popping out. Farmers market opened in some areas. Broadcast spraying of vegetable beds in preparation to plant vegetables. Hauling balled trees for shipment; digging and balling smaller shrubs, replanting cuttings. Feeding continues, hay supplies dwindling. Calls for emergency hay in San Antonio, Texas area. Green-up starting, water standing in low fields. Snow in coast range, adequate fill in reservoirs

YAMHILL: Freezing condition in February has lead to reports of losses in the early peach crops. Some vole and slug damage reported but baiting continues in grass. Some reports of total losses to fields that producers could not get onto this winter to treat for the slugs. Vole damage does not appear to be as bad as last year. There appears to be some residual damage to perennial ryegrass from the drought conditions of 2005 as the crowns did not come back as expected. Producers are taking a wait and see attitude at this point. Also reports of some chemical damage because of weather conditions this winter leading to some replanting in grass fields. Heavy hail storms went through parts of the county on 3/24/06, so may see spotty damage to cherries and prunes that were in bloom. Time will tell how the hazelnuts fared with the interesting weather from January as producers are hoping that the couple of clear days were enough for pollination. The county is still seeing areas of standing water though we have not had steady rain for quite some time. A good indication that the water table has been fully recharged after a couple of droughty years. The county experienced relatively minor erosion with this winter's heavy rains and flooding. We can definitely tell that spring is here because if you don't like the weather just wait a few minutes and it will change!

EASTERN OREGON

BAKER: Range and pasture conditions are behind average due to cold and wet spring. Soil moisture content above average.

CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON: Some cereal fields have had leaves “burnt” back with the freeze and wind in March. Winter wheat in general has been slowly growing this winter. But all of the fields should recover just fine, even though some winter barley fields do not look good visually, with all of the burnt leaves. Some small acreage producers in all 3 counties are planting veggies for transplanting when the time is right this spring. Soil is very wet. Calls for showers all this week with major rain on Sunday of the week reported. Fertilization of hay and cereal fields has been going on as fields have dried enough to get out on them. However, some fields are still too wet to do any spring ground work. Weather has warmed up this week into the 50's for highs. Some cereal and grass fields, and weeds, are really greening up in some areas.

GILLIAM/WHEELER: Still too early to plant spring wheat and barley. The temperatures have been too cold to get much growth.

GRANT: Weather has been cold and wet. Nothing much is growing because of the cold temperatures.

HARNEY: Calving proceeding well but wet weather is creating some calf scour issues.

HOOD RIVER: Unsettled conditions prevailed during the week, with some fair weather providing opportunities for growers throughout the Hood River Valley to apply delayed dormant sprays. Isolated hail storms caused some damage to more advanced blossom clusters. At week's end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d'Anjou pear at WSU stages 2 & 3; Red Delicious apple at green tip (WSU stage 2); Bing cherry at green tip (WSU stage 3); Pinot noir grapes at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage.

KLAMATH: Rain and snow showers continue in portions of the Klamath Basin. Some spring field work is being accomplished.

LAKE: Received precipitation in the form of rain, snow and hail throughout the week and weekend. Many livestock producers are starting to turn out onto their spring pastures. Surplus water conditions are causing flooding in some areas.

MALHEUR: Rain, rain, rain. Producers are really having trouble getting into their fields to do spring work. All irrigation delivery systems are beginning to load with water. The range grass looks good but it is very muddy and many producers are waiting to turn out because of it.

MORROW: Above average moisture in January was offset by below average moisture for February. First part of March remained dry, however the last week has had better amounts of rainfall, enough to slow down some field operations for dryland wheat farming. Winter wheat and emerging spring wheat looks mostly fair to good.

SHERMAN: Very good soil moisture for seeding. Many good days for spraying, no-tilling spring crops. Some field work/seedbed prep for regular spring planting. New planting of 100 acres of cherry trees going in. Much joy expressed about nearby basis going positive in wheat markets.

UMATILLA: Cold weather has stunted spring grass from growing. The pressure for new grass is increasing with each day. Warm days and nights are needed.

UNION: Still awaiting spring weather. Wet soils and windy conditions have restricted field operations. Spring pasture is just starting to green up. South part of the valley is dry, north part is wet. Short 2" of moisture on the calendar year to date. Spring grain planting has not started. Pastures and turf just beginning to green-up.

WALLOWA: Snow pack is 120% of normal. A good storm last weekend deposited over an inch of rain in some of the areas that needed it. More storms are in the forecast for the coming week. Too early to tell about range conditions.

WASCO: The weather was mixed during the week, with several warm spring days, while other days were cloudy with a thunder storm late Friday afternoon, which dumped nearly a half inch of rain. The average rainfall for Wasco County is around 12 inches, but since the first of October, we have had 15 inches of precipitation. This is the wettest winter we have had in many years. The winter wheat fields are bright green, but still very short. The south slopes of winter wheat looks good, but the north slopes look ragged, we need more warm weather. The cherry orchardist are starting to put their first spring spray on the fruit trees. Commercial orchards are starting to bloom. Cattle feeding has gone on over a month longer than normal. A number of cattlemen have had to buy extra hay during March. There is now a short supply of hay and some ranchers have had to go out of state for hay. Calving and lambing have been active this past month, and all livestock are doing fairly well. Range conditions are later than normal. If weather warms up it should start to grow. General moisture levels are adequate, with some delays of field work in wetter areas.

Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 2, 2006 (as of 11:00 am) ¹

Station	Air temperature ²				Growing degree days ³		Last week precip. ⁴			Season cum. precipitation ⁵			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN ⁶	Total	DFN ⁶	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Days ⁷	Total inches	DFN ⁶	Pct. normal	Days ⁷
COASTAL AREAS													
Astoria/Clatsop	39	63	50	+4	6	-1	0.66	-0.72	5	66.94	12.66	123	139
Bandon ⁸	39	62	51	+4	7	+0	0.90	-0.34	5	57.88	8.78	118	106
Cresent City	40	56	49	-1	1	-15	2.65	1.00	5	70.85	15.42	128	119
Florence	38	66	49	+2	5	-2	1.73	-0.03	6	71.67	8.45	113	132
Tillamook	35	62	48	+3	2	-5	0.70	-1.25	5	80.72	8.62	112	145
WILLAMETTE VALLEY													
Aurora ⁸	36	66	50	+3	5	-2	0.76	0.07	5	43.35	10.43	132	117
Corvallis	35	62	48	+2	1	-6	0.71	-0.01	5	44.03	8.35	123	120
Detroit Lake ⁸	31	64	46	+6	-	+0	1.03	-0.15	5	87.76	32.11	158	135
Eugene	33	62	48	-1	2	-10	1.24	0.19	5	39.95	-1.41	97	111
Hillsboro	37	63	49	+3	2	-5	0.94	0.20	5	38.02	7.02	123	120
McMinnville	39	66	51	+4	9	+1	0.94	0.05	7	34.39	-2.36	94	117
Portland	39	66	51	+3	12	+1	0.59	-0.10	5	33.89	5.05	118	121
Salem	34	66	49	+3	-	-7	1.02	0.26	6	42.34	9.94	131	115
SW VALLEYS													
Grants Pass	34	64	47	-4	1	-18	0.85	0.23	5	40.45	13.47	150	104
Medford	35	64	49	+0	2	-12	0.74	0.39	3	22.86	7.42	148	84
Roseburg	34	63	49	-1	3	-12	0.95	0.25	6	40.21	12.91	147	113
NORTH CENTRAL													
Condon	32	57	43	+2	-	+0	0.13	-0.15	2	11.61	2.08	122	69
Echo ⁸	30	63	50	+3	10	-2	0.21	0.08	1	7.31	0.75	111	68
Heppner	30	59	47	+2	1	-6	0.62	0.27	4	10.56	1.25	113	80
Hermiston	31	64	50	+3	9	-3	0.32	0.16	2	7.69	1.10	117	56
John Day	26	59	44	+2	2	-5	0.28	0.00	3	5.94	-1.87	76	83
Madras ⁸	28	58	44	+0	-	-7	0.18	0.05	3	9.77	2.56	136	80
Moro	29	61	45	+2	-	-4	0.13	-0.08	2	13.18	4.92	160	66
Parkdale ⁸	28	58	44	-3	-	-7	0.67	0.22	5	41.14	14.36	154	118
Pendleton	33	62	49	+2	3	-6	0.31	0.08	3	9.66	1.11	113	76
The Dalles	31	65	50	+6	10	+3	0.32	0.09	5	16.14	6.41	166	79
SOUTH CENTRAL													
Agency Lake ⁸	27	49	38	-1	-	+0	0.14	-0.13	2	17.51	5.10	141	96
Bend	23	56	40	-2	-	-3	0.01	-0.17	1	17.15	8.71	203	64
Burns	28	56	41	+3	-	-1	0.47	0.26	4	11.65	5.15	179	78
Christmas Valley ⁸	21	59	38	-4	-	-7	0.14	-0.04	3	6.25	-2.38	72	70
Klamath Falls	23	53	38	-4	-	-4	0.20	-0.04	5	14.35	4.04	139	83
Klamath Falls ⁸	22	53	37	-5	-	-4	0.18	-0.03	4	14.18	3.90	138	106
Lakeview	25	55	38	-2	-	-2	0.05	-0.25	2	7.54	-3.48	68	57
Lorella ⁸	22	52	38	-4	-	-4	0.22	0.01	3	16.01	5.73	156	95
Redmond	25	57	43	+2	-	-7	0.07	-0.07	3	8.08	2.49	145	67
Worden ⁸	25	51	38	-4	-	-4	0.10	-0.11	3	12.16	1.88	118	95
NORTHEAST													
Baker City	23	60	42	+0	-	-4	0.73	0.52	4	6.54	0.59	110	69
Joseph	22	59	39	+3	-	+0	0.77	0.35	6	13.46	-4.00	77	90
La Grande	27	63	45	+3	5	-2	0.35	0.00	3	4.59	-6.95	40	59
Prairie City ⁸	26	57	41	+7	-	+0	0.23	-0.13	3	9.27	-5.51	63	75
Union	30	65	45	+4	2	-5	0.68	0.40	4	7.58	-0.29	96	80
SOUTHEAST													
Ontario	27	65	47	-1	5	-6	0.69	0.53	3	10.83	3.81	154	70
Rome	17	63	42	-2	-	-4	0.21	0.02	2	6.68	1.89	139	63

¹ Summary based on NWS data. Copyright 2006: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

² Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

³ Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit.

⁴ Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

⁵ Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2005.

⁶ DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

⁷ Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

⁸ Agri-Met weather stations.